

* Fifth Binnual

Hwards Gala and Concert

May 8, 2007

Celebrating Career Bridges'
fifth year
of beautiful music
and
wonderful success

Marjorie and Tom Gilbert

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID SCHUYLER BENDER AND RARRARA MEISTER RENDER



All during our careers as singers, we noticed that too many extraordinarily gifted young operatic singers never had a chance to pursue their careers. Lack of good training in many areas, confusion over voice production and repertory, lack of funds for further study, and limited performance opportunities, caused many of them to give up without having had the opportunity to show their unique and valuable talents.

We started Career Bridges to help them, bringing together an international panel comprised of the most qualified experts in their fields: conductors, singers, coaches, stage directors, agents, opera and concert impresarios. Each member of the panel gives an evaluation as to what is needed for a career. This year Career Bridges will provide grants to twenty five young artists to study in those areas.

We have two outreach programs; through our Community Outreach program we will present ten concerts featuring Career Bridges Winners; through our Outreach to the Schools, "Kids Love Operal" (and they dol), we will reach over 9000 school children, many of whom have never heard a live performance of music before.

As co-founders of the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges we are delighted to present to you this evening some of these fine young singers in concert. We know you will recognize their potential stardom. Your donations make tomorrow's dreams come true. We are grateful for your support and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Guests of Honor EMILY AND EUGENE GRANT

Career Bridges is honored to present its Founders Award to Emily and Eugene Grant for their inspiration, advice and financial encouragement, from the moment of inception until now.

A graduate of the University of Foronto, and the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music, Mrs. Grant is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the SUNY Purchase College Foundation, member of the board of directors of both the Westchester Jewish Community Services and the Westchester Arts Council. She is a founding member and past president of the Emelin Theater Board of Directors.

Eugene M. Grant's philanthropic efforts reflect his deep commitment to music, the arts and education. A graduate of the University of Michigan and Columbia Law School, he is president of Eugene M. Grant & Company, a real estate investment firm. At the University of Michigan, he is a Trustee of the Institute of the Humanities, and a benefactor of the Archaeology Museum and the College of Music. He is a past General Campaign chairman of UJ A/Federation of New York, a Life Trustee of the Jewish Museum of New York and Founding Chairman of the Westchester Holocaust Commission. Mr. Grant is a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera Association, the Richard Tucker Foundation, and the Real Estate Councils of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Together the couple is actively involved with environmental issues and international archeological projects. They provide scholarship assistance to students at the Purchase Conservatory of Music as well as to students in the departments of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The Grants have made major gifts to the Judaic Studies Program, the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Division of Kinesiology, and the Institute of the Humanities. Emily and Eugene are benefactors of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology as well.

Guest of Honor



Bgron in Bradford, Pennsylvania, USA, Marilyn Horne has been called "probably the greatest singer in the world" (Opera News, 1983). She is, without a doubt, one of the greatest mezz-osopranos in opera history and is probably the greatest Rossini interpreter ever. She has been singing for over 40 years and her contributions to the opera world like on in her numerous reportions.

In the fall of 1954, Marilyn made her operatic debut at the age of twenty in the role of Hata in Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" for the Los Angeles Guild Opera. That summer, she sang the voice of Carmen Jones in Oscar Hammerstein's re-creation of Birght's "Carmen"

Marilyn traveled to Europe in the hopes of furthering her career. She sang in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, appearing in many of the company's productions as a soprano. Her first great career success occured at the inauguration of Gelsenkirchen's new opera house on May 22, 1960 as Marie in Berg's "Wozzeck." She was subsequently enaged to sing the role with The San Francisco Opera.

to was on after the San Francisco "Wozzeck" that Marilyn made her first appearance with Joan Sutherland. Marilyn performed Agnese opposite Sutherland in a Town Hall Concert version of Bellinis" Beatrice of Tenda" in February 1961. Ms. Horne began performing regularly in the world's great opera houses. She made her Covent Garden debut in October of 1964 as Marie in "Novzeck" Her La Scala debut was as Jocasta in Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" on March 13, 1969. Her Metropolitan Opera debut was as Adalgisa opposite Joan Sutherland's Norma in Bellinis "Norma". She sang many more times at the Met, and opened the 1927-1937 season as Carmen. In 1984, she brought Handel's "Rinaldo" to the Met, the first Handel opera ever performed there.

After four decades as one of America's most beloved opera singers and recitalists (performing over 1300 recitals), Ms. Horne became increasingly concerned about the diminishing recital opportunities for young singers throughout the United States, a situation due largely to the decrease in government funding of the arts, the diminishing of arts education programs in K-12 schools, and the entertainment industry's aggressive promotion of non-classical genres. Because she believes that preparing and performing vocal recitals was essential to her own development as a singer, Ms. Horne rallied the support of an initial group of equally concerned and committed individuals to begin the task of ensuring that young singers in this new millennium have the same opportunities she had, and that the vocal recital remains a viable and living art form in this country. She founded and is President of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Its mission is to support, encourage, and preserve the art of the vocal recital through the presentation of vocal recitals and related educational activities across the United States. In ten short years it has become known as one of the most influential and esteemed national non-profit organization devoted exclusively to song and to gifted young vocal recitalists.

In addition to her active participation in the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Ms. Horne works as the Vocal Program Director at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara.



Guest of Honor EVE QUELER

Eve Queler is the founder and Music Director of the Opera Orchestra of New York which she organized in 1967 to present rare operas in concert version and to give opportunities to talented inspers and instrumentalists.

As Music Director of the Opera Orchestra of New York, Eve Queler has conducted over gooperas in concert at Carnegie Hall. Standing out among her many successes as Nucleo Director of OONY are Wagner's "Rienzi" and "Tristan und Isolde," Berlioz' "Benweinuto Cellini," Smetana's "Dalibor," and Strauss' "Die Liebe der Danae." Queler has championed many neglected Russian and Czech operas that are staples in Central Europe but virtually unknown in America. She was the first conductor here to perform Musorgsky's unfinished "Khowanschinia" with orchestration by Shostakovich, as well as the first Czech-language performance of Janacek's "Katya Kabanova" (1074). "lenidia" (1988). and Dvorak's "Rusalka" (1987).

She has conducted opera throughout the world including the Kirov Opera in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Hamburg Oper among others in Germany, the Australian Opera in Sydney, Buenos Aires' legendary Teatro Colón, and the Liceu in Barcelona. She has conducted numerous symphony orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, San Antonio Symphony and Rome Opera.

In addition to her extensive accomplishments as a conductor of standard and rare works in both opera and symphonic repertory, Queler has given critical early exposure to many young singers who have gone on to become the foremost artists of our time: José Carreras, Renée Fleming, James Morris, and Deborah Voigt, among numerous others.

Eve Queler has many distinctions including two honorary doctorates. In March 1995, she was honored by New York University for a Leading Woman in the Arts while in September of that year, the "Butterfly Award" of the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation was presented to her for her outstanding work. She received one of the highest awards presented by the French government when she was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture for her commitment to French operas. Maestro Queler also received the prestigious Touchstone Award from Women in Music, Inc., in recognition of her visionary spirit as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference."

A native of New York City, Ms. Queler studied at the Mannes College in New York and followed master classes with famous conductors like Igor Merkevich and Walter Suskind. She has made a name for herself also with various publications on rare operas and has made critical editions of three of Donizetti operas.

Guest of Honor



Born in Ciutadella de Menorca, Spain, Juan Pons has performed with the most benestiglous opera companies of the world including The Metropolitan Opera, he Vienna State Opera, San Francisco Opera, London Covent Gardren, La Scala, La Bastille in Paris, Bavarian State Opera, Hamburg Opera, Teatro Lírico de la Zarzuela in Madrid, Rome Opera, Florence Opera, La Fenice Theater in Venice, Teatro Communalle in Bologna. He has also sung at the Chicago, Dallas, Washington, San Diego and San Francisco Operas

Mr. Pons received world-wide attention in December 1980 at La Scala of Milan in the main role of Giorgio Strehler's production of "Falstaff" under the direction of Lorin Maazel.

In 3983 he made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera House of New York with "Il riovatore," where he has since appeared regularly, performing "Rigoletto," "Ballo in Maschera" directed by James Levine, "La Traviata," "I Pagliact," "Madame Butterfly," "Lucia di Lammermour" among others. He performed with Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti at the opening of the season 1934/95 at the Metropolitan Opera House of New York. This season he stars in the Metropolitan Opera productions of "Rigoletto" and "Il Tabarro."

He was special guest during season 1992/93 at the Gala in honour of Richard Tucker at the Lincoln Center in New York. He also appeared as special guest in the Ceremony of the Olympic Games in Barcelona 1992.

His recordings include "Tosca", "La Fanciulla del West," "Il Tabarro" and "Aroldo" for CBS/SONY. "La Forza del Destino," "Madame Butterfly" and "Cavalleria Rusticana," under the direction of Glusseppe Sinopoli. "La Traviata" with James Levine, "Lucia di Lammermour" and "El Gato Montés" for DEUTSCHE GRAMOPHONE, "I Pagliacci" for PHILLIPS with Ricardo Muti, "Il Tabarro" for DECCA, "Fastaff" with Ricardo Muti for CBS/SONY, "Herodiade," "Luisa Fernanda," "La Tabernera del Puerto" and "Marina." He has also recorded on video: the Metropolitan production of "L'Elisir d'Amore" with James Levine, La Scala productions of "La Fanciulla del West," "Aida," and "Gianni Schicchi" under the direction of Lorin Maazel, "I Pagliacci" for PHILLIPS and the Lyrical Gala in Seville for BMG.



Posthumous Award CHARLES RIECKER

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Emily and Eugene Grant

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of music because it is the most direct

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the emotions of the soul.

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FOR ITS OUTSTANDING WORK

ON BEHALF OF YOUNG SINGERS."

ROBERTA GLENN

AND

KENNETH ROCK

Our compliments to Barbara and David

for their work.

-Irene Duell Mendes and Col. John De Sola Mendes

2007 CARFER BRIDGES WINNERS



lose Alvarez, Countertenor, was born in Los Angeles California and was recently heard on the soundtrack of the made-for-TV movie. Brave New Girl, produced by Lynn and Britney Spears for the ARC Family Channel. An avid recitalist, Mr. Alvarez has performed in concert and recital in Los Angeles, El Paso, Las Cruces, Alamagordo, Carlshad, New Canaan, and Juarez, Mexico, Mr. Alvarez participated in the Jov in Singing Master classes. He will be an Apprentice Artist with the Des Moines Metro Opera in the summer of 2007, where he will be covering Oberon in Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mr. Alvarez received a Rachelor of Music in vocal arts from the University of Southern Califor-

nia Thornton School of Music and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Music and Music Education at Columbia University



Robert Balonek, Baritone, recently graduated from the Purchase College Conservatory SUNY, where he performed the roles of Jailor in Francis Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites Figaro in Mozart's Le Nozze di Finance and was featured in the 2007 production of Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea as Ottone. Last summer. Robert performed in the summer resort. Quisisana, Maine This summer He will be performing in La Traviata in Colorado's Central City Opera Program, Robert is a student of Jacque Trussel.



Steven Ebel, Tenor, was born and raised in Jefferson, Wisconsin, where he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for voice. There he performed as "Nanki-Poo" in The Mikado, "Orpheus" in Orpheus in the Underworld, "Arturo" in Lucia Di Lammermoor and "Dr. Miracle" in Dr. Miracle. In 2003, he made his New York Debut in the role of "Il Postiolione" in La Fanciulla del West with the New York City Opera. He has performed two solo recitals in New York: "A Tenor's Sonobook" and a program of music by Benjamin Britten entitled "Sonnets and Songs of the Isles." Prizes include the New York Oratorio Society Solo Competition and the Long Island Masterworks Paul Straney Award. Mr. Ebel will spend this summer singing the role of Peter Quint in Opera Cleveland's new production of

Turn of the Screw.



Megan Hart, Soprano, a native of Oregon, earned both her Bachelors degree in Voice Performance and her Masters degree in Opera Theater at Oberlin Conservatory, she was a Gerdine Young Artist with the Opera Theatre St. Louis and covered the role of Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. That summer she was also a Young Artist at Opera North, singing Gianetta in The Gondoliers and The Bat in L'enfant et les Sortileges. In the summer of 2006 she performed the roles of Amina in La Sonnambula (Centre Studi Italiani), and Fiordiligi in Cosí Fan Tutte (BASOTI). In 2006 she made her mainstage debut at Opera North as Gretel in Hansel and Gretel. Recently Ms. Hart won the Oregon District division of the Metro-

politan Opera National Council Auditions Future performances include Lauretta in Gignni Schicchi at the Crested Butte Music Festival.

PROGRAM

La Traviata: Brindisi: "Libiamo, Ne'lieti Calici" sung by Career Bridges Grant Winners

Welcome Remarks by
Barbara Meister Bender and David Schuyler Bender, Co-Founders

Presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award to MARILYN HORNE

Aria: Rachele Gilmore, Soprano (special surprise)

Presentation of Posthumous Award to CHARLES RIECKER

accepted by Stephanie Blythe

Joanne Um and "Papageno/Papagena Duet" Die Zauberflote W.A. Mozart Robert Balonek

Main Course

Presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award to EVE QUELER

ramara wapinsky	L Bell Altio II Milo Soglio	ii rabarro	rucciiii
Jesus Ibarra	"Ich Grolle Nicht Dichterliebe"		Schumann
Katrina Thurman	"Non Monsieur, Mon Mari"	Les Mamelles de Tiresias	Poulenc
Jose Alvarez	"Di Tanti Palpiti"	Tancredi	Rossini
Megan Hart	"Prendi Il Mio Rigor"	L'Elisir D'Amore	Donizetti

PROGRAM

(cont'd)

Presentation of the Founders Award to EMILY AND EUGENE GRANT

Rachel Watkins "O Luce di Quest'Anima" Linda di Chamounix Donizetti

Michael Anthony McGee "Deh Ti Ferma" Semiramide Rossini

Steven Ebel "Il Mio Tesoro" Don Giovanni W.A. Mozart

Angela Meade "Casta Diva" Norma Bellini

Rigoletto: Quartet: "Bella Figlia Dell'amore" sung by

Rachele Gilmore, Malena Dayen, Florin Olimpio, Raymond Diaz

Presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award to JUAN PONS

Reprise: La Traviata: Brindisi: "Libiamo, Ne'lieti Calici" sung by Career Bridges Grant Winners

Dessert



Jesus Ibarra, Bass-Baritone, was born in Mexico, and currently studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, where he has performed roles in Cosi fan Tutte, Le Nazze di Figora, La Boheme, L'imico Fritz, Don Giovanni, Das Rheingold, and Rigoletto. Mr. Ibarra was featured as "Colline" in La Boheme and "Dulcamara" in "L'Elisir D'Amore" at the Conservatory of Music in Mexico City. He has recorded opera programs for the Radio Nacional de Mexico. Last summer he starred as Ferrando in Opera North production of Verdi's Il Travatore.



Michael Anthony McGee, Bass-Baritone, holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. McGee made his mainstage debut with New York City's Dic Capo Opera Theater in 2005 as "Colline" in Puccini's La Boheme. In 2006, he was a Seattle Opera Young Artist, a winner of the New York district 2006 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and spent last summer in San Francisco as a Young Artist with the Merola Opera. Future engagements include a summer residency with the prestigious Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Singer Program, and a return to the Seattle Young Artist Program.



Katrina Thurman, Soprano holds a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music from Oklahoma City University. She has performed with opera companies such as Opera National de Lyon, France, Oper Bonn, Germany, Opera Omaha, Utah Symphony & Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Aspen Opera Theater Center, Natchez Opera Festival, among others. This season Ms. Thurman can be seen as Musertain in La Boheme with Piedmont Opera and as Martha in Romulus (by Louis Karchin) with American Opera Projects and the Guggenheim Museum's Works & Process series. In the summer of 2007, she will ioin the Young American Artist Program a Glimmerolass Opera. Addition the Young American Artist Program a Glimmerolass Opera.

in the Toung American Arists Program at culimmergiass Opera. Auditional upcoming engagements include Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflote* with Tulsa Opera. Katrina has been part of distinguished training programs, Natchez Opera Festival's Apprentice Artist Program, Des Moines Metro Opera's Apprentice Artist Program and Opera in the Ozarks.



Joanne Um, Soprano, is a graduate student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and received her undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California. Ms. Um won the Grand Prize at the Sigma Alpha lota Vocal competition, the 2006 Berkley Piano Club Van Waynen competition and the 2006 Stewart Brady Competition, among others. She most recently appeared as Papagena in San Francisco Lyric Opera and Livermore Opera's production of Die Zauberflote, and Zerlina in Don Giovanni with Pacific Union Concert Series. Oratorio credits include soprano solo in Fauré Requiem with Oakland Symphony chorus and Mozart's Essultate Jubilate.



Tamara Wapinsky, Soprano, has been noted by Opera News for displaying vocal promise in her debut performance of Glanni Schlicch with the
Chautauqua Opera Company. She has appeared with the Chautauqua
Symphony Orchestra, The Bay Shore Lyric Opera, and the Tri-Cities Symphony Orchestra, where she was the soprano soloist in Beethoven's Ninth
Symphony. She is a prizewinner of the Giulio Gari Competition, The Joan
Kreitzer Snyder Award, the Metropolitan National Council Regional Auditions and the Opera Index Competition. In the 2006, season she joined
the Merola Opera Center in San Francisco, to sing Tallulah Carter in the
world-premiere of Thomas Pastitier's A Hotel Cassblanca.

BEST WISHES TO

CAREER BRIDGES

ON ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

AND CONGRATULATIONS

TO BARBARA AND DAVID

MR. AND MRS. CARL WIDELL

We Salute

* The great Eve Queler, Marilyn Horne and Juan Pons for their outstanding contribution to opera and for honoring Career Bridges by agreeing to participate in this gala.

 * Angela Meade, winner of the Metropolitan Opera national auditions, and all the other wonderful singers associated with Career Bridges.

* Emily and Eugene Grant for their extraordinary generosity.

* David and Barbara Bender for creating, guiding and nurturing Career Bridges and for everything they've done to make this event possible.

> * The late Charles Riecker, who devoted his life to opera and earned the love and respect of all.

Lester Kushner and Bob Levine

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and

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to our dear friends

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"If music be the food of love, play on..." (Act I, Scene I, <u>Twelfth Night</u>, William Shakespeare)

Bravo

Emily & Eugene Grant Betty & Al Osman

For your extraordinary efforts to encourage & support the future of opera.

Love & Best Wishes,

Ina, Arthur & the extended Gordon Family



Bravi to Career Bridges on its 5th Anniversary for providing great aid to the future of opera and to its impassioned young performers.

Al & Betty Osman

We congratulate the honorees, Emily and Eugene Grant. With great respect and admiration.

Constance & Alfred Weissman

Congratulations to Career Bridges on its 5th Annual Gala

-Leslie Dame

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Our Mission

Career Bridges' mission is to provide grants, expert mentoring, training, and performance opportunities over a period of three years to highly talented young classical singers so that they will be ready to launch their careers.

In addition, our mission is to enrich the lives of young school children and adults through the presentation of live performances by our gifted young artists.

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